

# 2010 Military Health System Conference

## Success Through Enhanced Interoperability and Implementation of VLER Capabilities

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25 January 2010



- Department of Veterans Affairs
- Department of Defense
- DoD/VA Interagency Program Office

# Learning Objectives



- Understand what electronic information is shared between DoD and VA and how it supports health care delivery and continuity of care
- Understand how DoD, VA, and IPO are working together to enhance data sharing and interoperability of electronic health information
- Understand the benefits of and plans for implementing a virtual lifetime electronic record capability

# Agenda



- Wounded Warrior Scenario
- Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER)  
Vision, Goal, and Strategy
- Current Health Data Sharing
- Nationwide Health Information Network
- VLER Implementation
- Data Sharing and Benefits
- VLER Internal Collaboration Site

# Wounded Warrior Scenario



## Why information exchange ?



**Continuity of Care:  
Wounded Warrior Scenario**



- Continuity of Care for Wounded Warrior across federal and private sector health care organizations

- Integration of local, private sector patient data with DoD and VA data improves clinical decision making

- Timely, seamless retrieval of patient health records expedites determination of disability benefits

# Joint Vision for VLER



- On April 9, 2009, President Obama directed DoD and VA to create a Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) that:

“will ultimately contain administrative and medical information from the day an individual enters military service throughout their military career and after they leave the military.”

-President Barack Obama





# VLER Goal



- The goal of VLER is to provide seamless access to electronic records for Service Members and Veterans
  - No one should experience delay in access to services they earned while serving their country because of red tape and paperwork

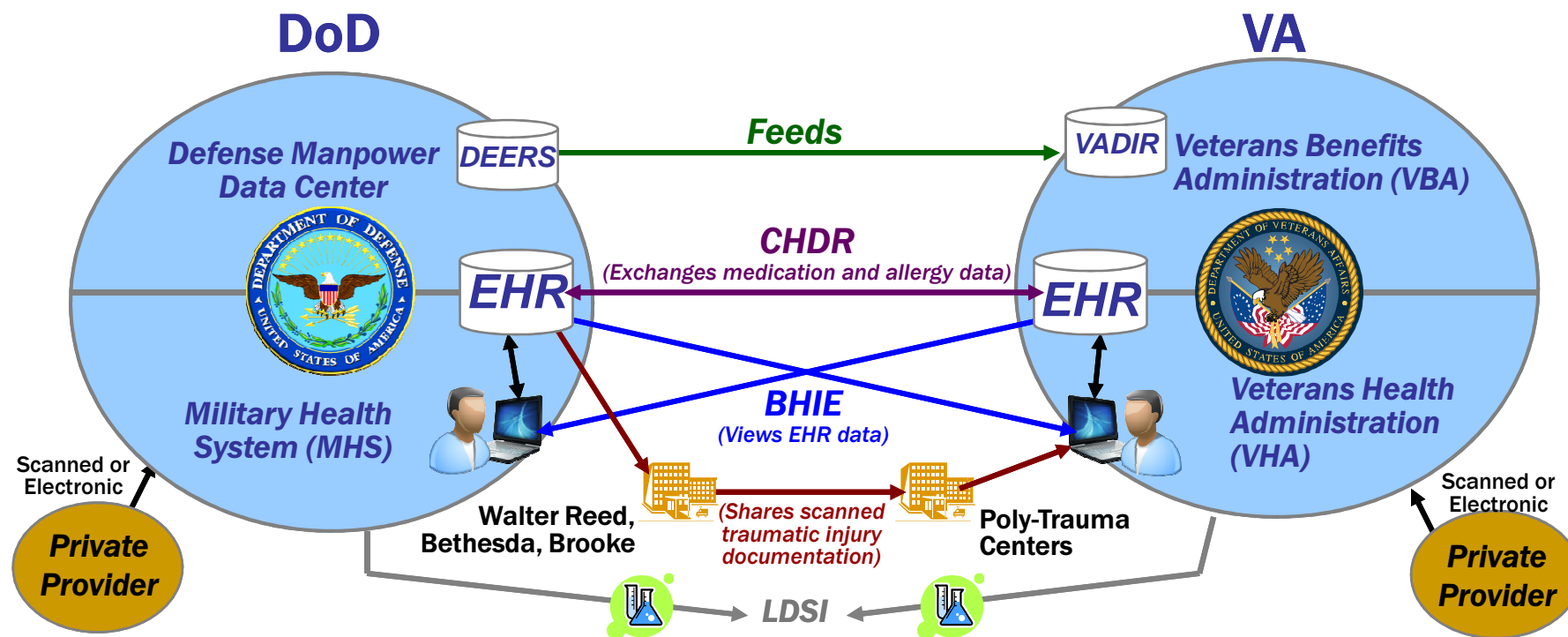
# VLER Strategy



- Allow health care providers access to Service Members' and Veterans' health records, in a secure and authorized way, regardless of whether care is delivered in the private sector, DoD or VA
- More efficient, effective, and timely than creating a single DoD/VA system
  - Builds on existing DoD and VA electronic health record capabilities
  - Solves the need to share information with the private sector
  - Not a large acquisition program
  - Avoids obsolescence as EHR system modernize



# Current DoD/VA Information Sharing



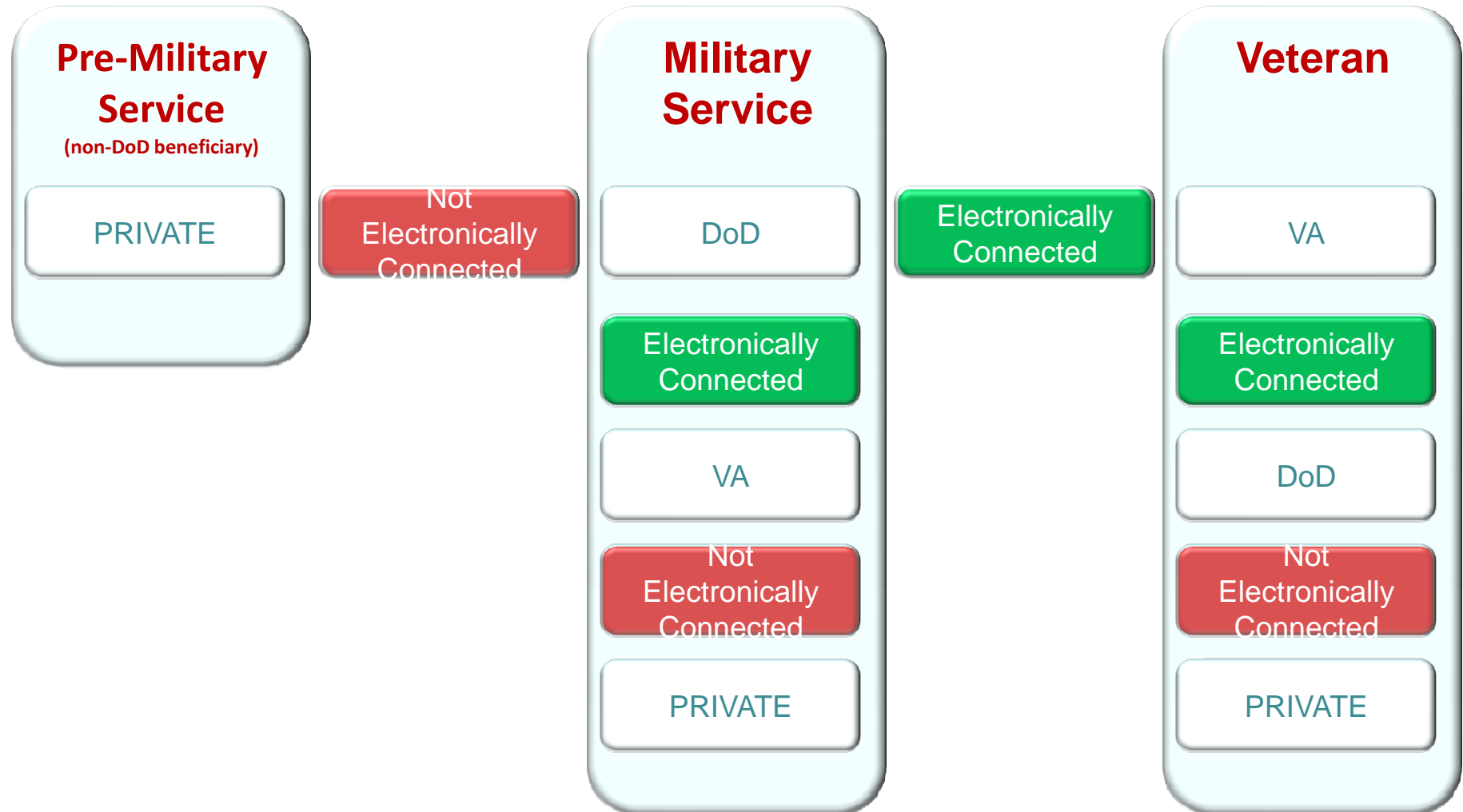
## Acronyms

BHIE = Bi-directional Health Information Exchange  
 CHDR = Clinical Data Repository/Health Data Repository  
 DEERS = Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System

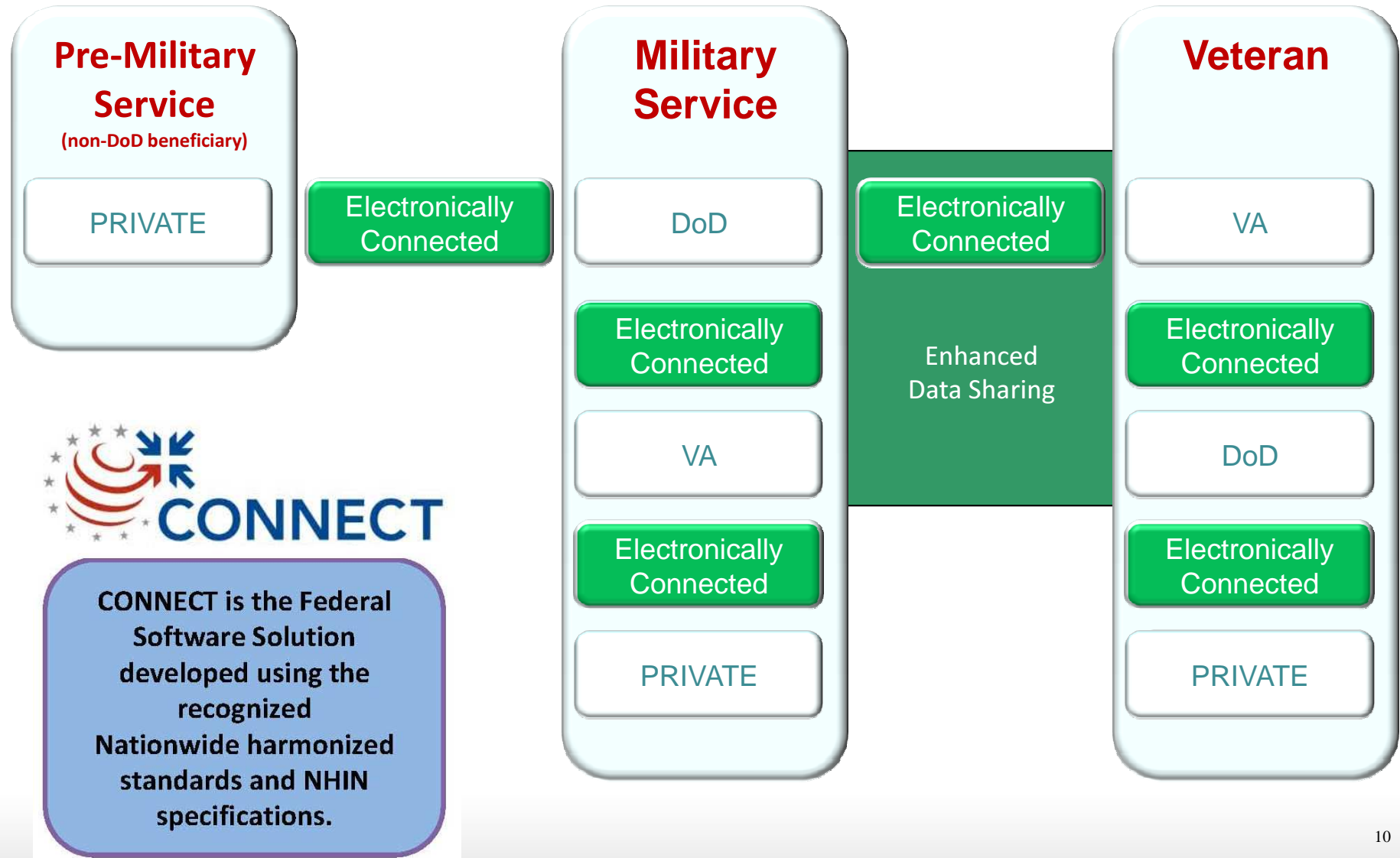
EHR = Electronic Health Record  
 VADIR = VA Defense Information Repository  
 LDSI = Laboratory Data Sharing and Interoperability



# DoD/VA Not Connected to Private Sector



# DoD/VA/Private Sector Connected Using NHIN-CONNECT

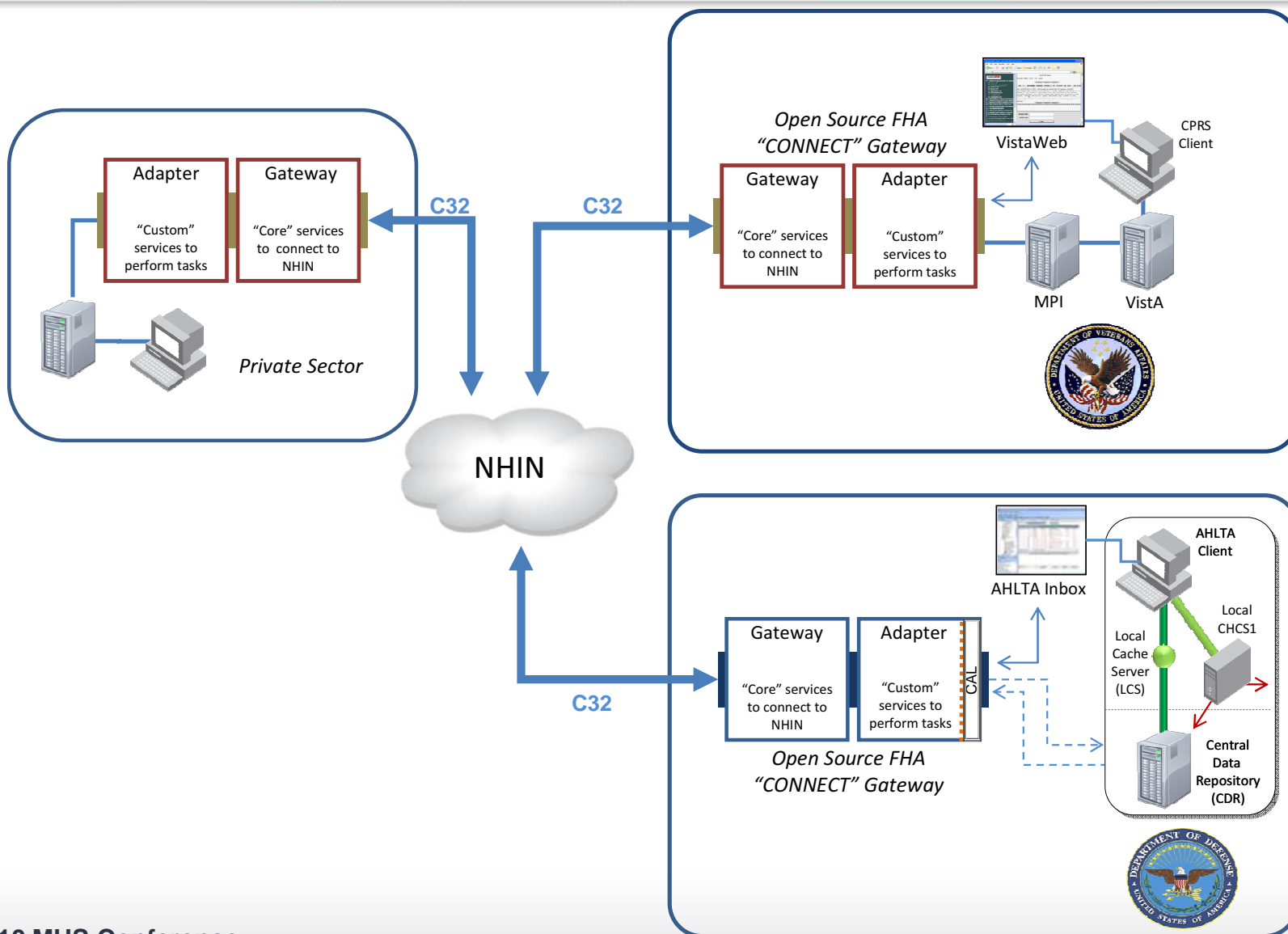


# NHIN Information Exchange



- NHIN is a collection of standards, protocols, legal agreements, specifications and services that enables the secure exchange of health information electronically
- Adaptors will make data in DoD and VA current electronic systems available through the NHIN in standard formats, electronically
- DoD and VA use of the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) will help drive and establish the standards for health information exchange nationally

# Conceptual Architecture





# VLER Initial Approach

## Six Month Increments

### Phase 1a Initial Pilot

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter CY 2010

- Health Record Data
  - HITSP C32 subset
    - o Patient information
    - o Emergency Information
    - o Allergies, Problems
    - o Active Medications
    - o Source of Sending System
- VA/DoD/Kaiser Permanente in San Diego
- Use of NHIN-capability for health information exchange for selected Service Members/Veterans

### Phase 1b Production Pilots

#### CY 2010

- Health Record Data
  - HITSP C32 subset
  - Add'l ICIB-Defined/HEC Approved Data
- 3 VLER Health Community Sites with VA/DoD/HIEs/Private Partners
- Continue development of health data sets with ICIB/Functional Users/HEC
  - ICIB Recommended Priorities: Immunizations, Laboratory Results, Documents (Discharge Summaries, Consults), Procedure Notes, Vitals
- Use of NHIN for health information exchange

**Future  
Phases  
Production  
& Pilots**



# Approach – Phase 1a



- Phase 1a: production pilot and proof of concept
  - Prototype already successfully executed in San Diego between private sector provider and VA



“The ability to share critical health information is essential to interoperability. Utilizing the NHIN’s standards and network will allow organizations like VA and the Department of Defense to partner with private sector health care providers to promote better, faster and safer care for Veterans.”

- VA Secretary, Eric Shinseki

(November 25, 2009)

# Approach – Phase 1a



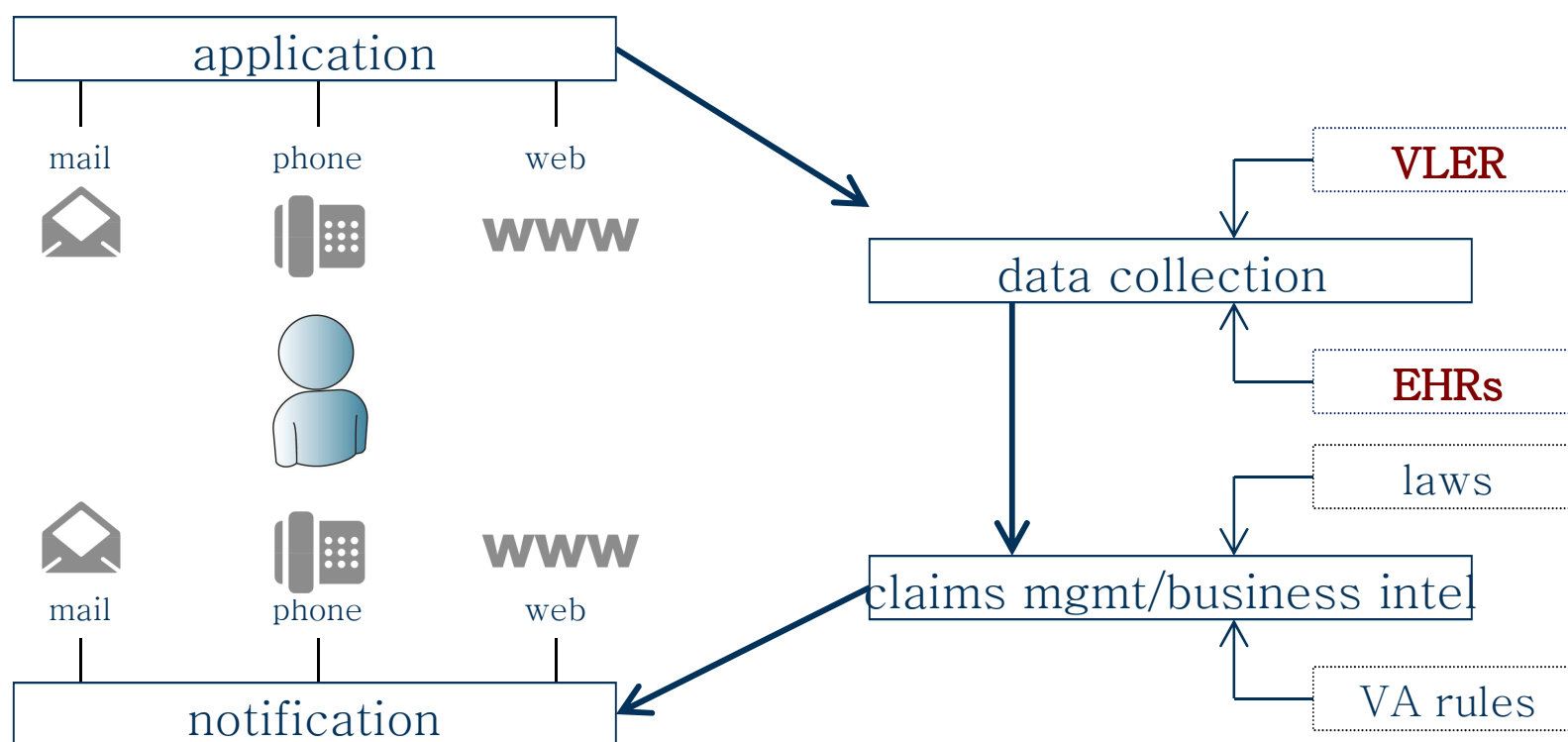
- DoD is joining phase 1a to exchange information with VA and the private sector provider

“...paperwork for injured troops can still be frustrating, adversarial, and unnecessarily complex. We need to continue refining roles and responsibilities between DoD and VA, and finding better ways to share information – a goal both Secretary Shinseki and I are committed to.”

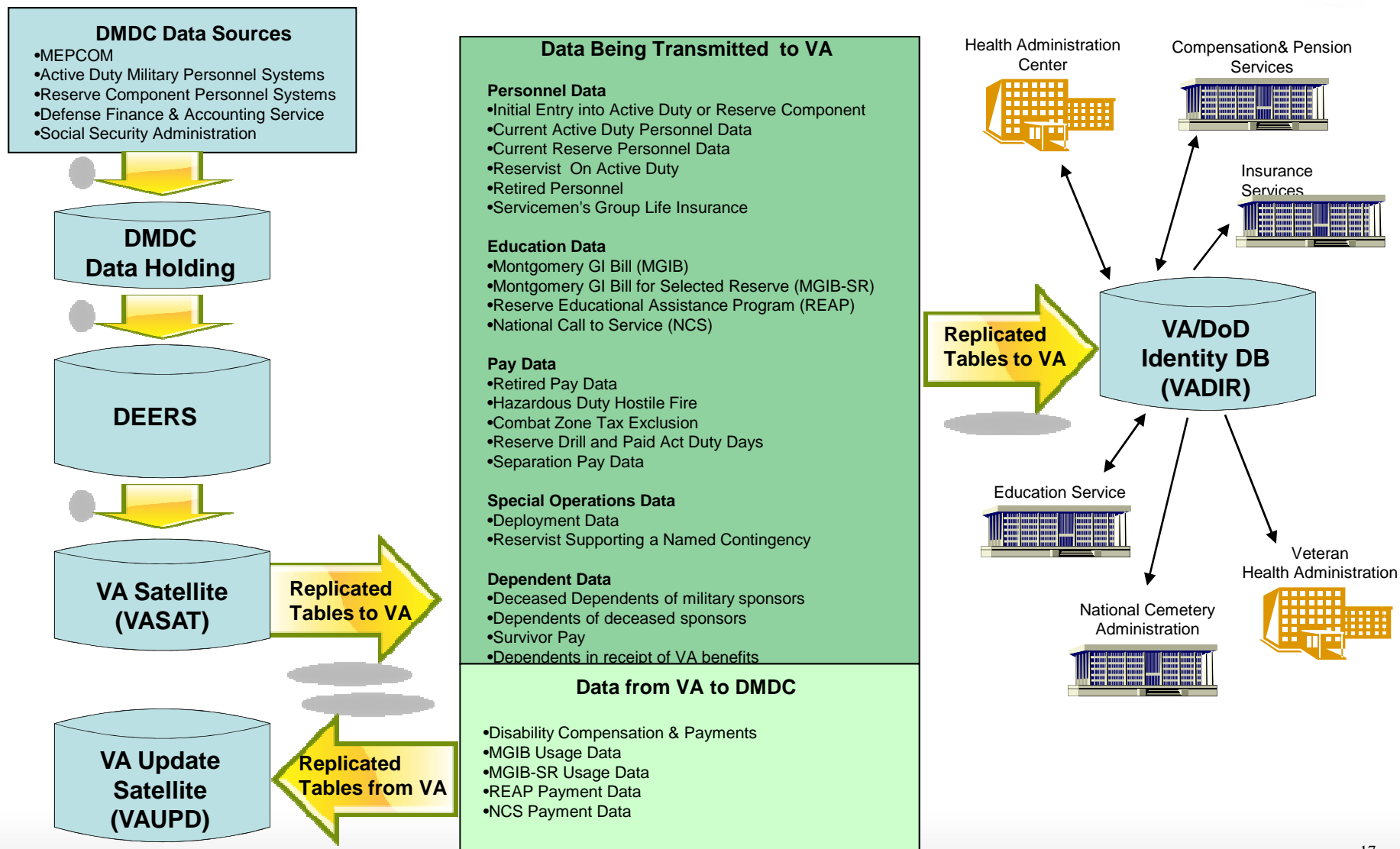
- Secretary of Defense, Robert M. Gates  
(October 26, 2009)



# VLER is Integral to Paperless Benefits Processing



# DoD/VA Personnel & Benefits Data Share Process



# VLER Internal Collaboration Site



**Draft Front Page**

Home

View All Site Content

**Documents**

- JIMS Library

**Lists**

- VLER Meetings Calendar
- VLER Current Events

**Discussions**

**Sites**

**People and Groups**

**Site Collection Admins**

- douglas.b.felton
- leon.b.cameron
- samuel.a.street
- stephanie.a.drummond
- tyler.m.juke

[Recycle Bin](#)

Done

Draft for reworking the top level/welcome site.

## Welcome to the VLER Collaboration Site

The VLER Collaboration Site (VCS) is dedicated to enhancing communication between the DoD, VA, HHS, and private sector partners in the development and implementation of the Virtual Lifetime Electronic Record (VLER) program. On January 2, 2009 the White House released a **memo** calling for government to be open, transparent, and collaborative. In that spirit the VCS was created as a means to break down barriers and help achieve success in the VLER program.

[Click here](#) for more information about the VCS.

## Federal Collaboration Portal

al is provided as a multi-partner collaboration area. Project areas can be defined below the portal. The portal provides shared libraries: Documents for *Collaboration*, Slides for *sharing*, and *ly*.

[an Current Events Box.](#)

[Read Access to this portal.](#)

**VLER Meetings Calendar**

12/30/2009 9:00 AM	CONNECT Sprint Meeting
Audience: Federal Product Managers and Developers	
12/30/2009 11:00 AM	VA NHIN Stakeholder Cal
Purpose: Provide NHIN Stakeholders within VA an update on the status and accomplished work of the San Diego Pilot Project.	
12/30/2009 1:00 PM	VLER/NHIN Phase 1a Weekly Meeting (DoD)
Purpose: Review activities, risks, issues, and milestones associated with NHIN Phase 1a initiative.	

**VLER Collaboration Site (Home)**

Department of Defense | Department of Veterans Affairs

RT Collaboration Site (Home) | Federal Partners Collaboration | IPO Site (prototype) | Leon's Tech Library | VCS Techn

VLER Collaboration Site (Home) > Key VLER Documents

Documents provided by IPO and other agencies of general interest to the VLER COI

ID	Type	Name
1		EHR Summit FINAL PDF
2		2009-07-31 Final Draft VLER Capabilities Description v 1.1
3		NHIN Attendee List
4		NHIN WBS
7		VCS Overview 16112009
8		VLER Contact List
9		stratcom contact list

**Key VLER Documents**

- VCS Contact List
  - STRATCOM Contact List
  - VLER (Home) Events
- VCS Wiki Site
- VCS Blog
- VCS Portal Overview (Beta release)
- Site Hierarchy
- Draft Front Page
- Federal Partners VLER Colla
- IPO-Only VLER Collaboration

Done



# Learning Objectives - Fulfilled



- Understand what electronic information is shared between DoD and VA and how it supports health care delivery and continuity of care
  - For shared patients, DoD and VA exchange viewable and computable information through the Bidirectional Health Information Exchange (BHIE).
  - For separated Service Members, DoD sends the VA outpatient pharmacy, laboratory and radiology results, allergy data, consult reports, admissions and transfer data, standard ambulatory data record elements, and deployment assessment data through the Federal Health Information Exchange (FHIE)
  - For polytrauma patients, three DoD facilities (Walter Reed AMC, Bethesda, and Brooke AMC) provide a live transfer of radiology images and scanned medical records to four VA polytrauma centers (Tampa, Richmond, Minneapolis, and Palo Alto).

# Learning Objectives - Fulfilled



- Understand how DoD, VA, and IPO are working together to enhance data sharing and interoperability of electronic health information
  - Incremental phasing of VLER implementation
  - Continuing evolution of existing electronic health records systems
  - Working together using an interagency coordinated approach

# Learning Objectives - Fulfilled



- Understand the benefits of and plans for implementing a virtual lifetime electronic record capability
  - Standards-based, open-architecture, net-centric data exchange between federal and private sector partners
  - Establish standards for national, electronic health information exchange
  - Improve quality of care through timely access to information
  - Reduce medical and administrative errors
  - Seamless access to all electronic records from day one of military career through transition to veteran status and beyond
  - Safe, secure, private data sharing
  - Incremental approach using pilot sites to scale NHIN-based exchange
  - Gradually replace the current point-to-point data exchange



## Questions:

Mrs. Debra Filippi (IPO)  
Dr. Stephen Ondra (VA)  
Ms. Norma St. Claire (DoD)